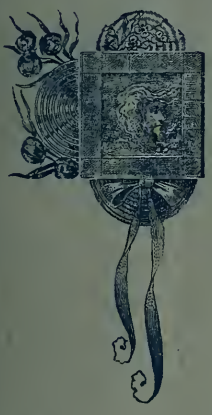
ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

Thirteenth Annual Session

OF THE



Florence Baptist Association.

HELD WITH

LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH,

Lauderdale County, Ala.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August, 10, 11, 12,

1900

H. C. GILBERT, MODERATOR, FLORENCE.
O. F. HUCKABA, CLERK, - WATERLOO.

Next Session will be held with EAST FLORENCE Church, beginning Friday before the Second Sunday in August, 1901. Introductory Sermon by O. F. HUCKABA. Alternate, F. G. POSEY.

MINUTES

OF THE

Florence Baptist Association.

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FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 10, 1900.

FLORENCE Association met with Liberty church, Lauderdale county, Ala., at 11 a. m. Friday, August 10, 1900. The Introductory sermon was preached by Rev. Richard Hall, of Florence, Text: II Cor. 5:20. Adjournment for dinner, which was spread on the ground.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator, H. C. Gilbert, of Florence. The deacons of Liberty church were appointed to arrange the Devotional services.

The roll of the churches was called, and the following messengers' names enrolled:

FLORENCE—H. C. Gilbert, John T. Ashcraft, J. J. Paulk, R. Hall, and Mrs. Lizzie Jones.

LIBERTY—C. P. Austin, J. W. Austin, Guy Paulk, J. T. Sego, and O. F. Huckaba.

BRUSH CREEK—Joe Wesson and J. J. Jones.

UNION GROVE—B. G. Gray, John English, Riley McMirtry.

MARTINDALE was not represented.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS On motion, H. C. Gilbert was re-elected Moderator; and on motion, O. F. Huckaba was elected Clerk and Treasurer.

R. E. Paulk, C. P. Austin, and F. G. Posey were appointed as Finance committee.

The following new churches applied for admission, and were received with messengers as follows:

East Florence—Mrs. C. S. Hallman; Misses Lillian Kirby and Maud Evans; and W. H. Bowen.

New Hope—John Mitchell, John Butler, and Dave Weems.

Mt. Pleasant—F. G. Posey, J. J. McGee, and John Robinson.

Second Creek—T. S. Ponders and A. J. Haddock.

The following visiting brethren and sisters accepted seats with us:

Brother and Sister A. J. Ivie and Rev. T. F. Hendon, of Colbert Association; J. B. Lay and Jessie Lay, of Indian Creek, (Tenn.,) Association; Dr. G. M. Savage, President of the Southwestern Baptist University, of Jackson, Tennessee, from Central Association; Dr. W. B. Crumpton, Corresponding Secretary State Board of Missions; J. N. Davis, of Indian Creek, (Tenn.,) Association; Miss J. Y. Quissenberry, of New Decatur, representing Woman's Work; and Prof. F. M. Roof, President of Howard College.

As Prof. Roof could not stay for all the meeting, he was granted the privilege of speaking for Howard and the cause of education which he did to the delight of all present.

At the last meeting of the Association, a committee was appointed to prepare a constitution. On finding that a constitution had been prepared some time ago, the clerk was asked to read it. After the reading of the constitution, it was adopted, and the committee was released.

This report was read by Rev. R. Hall.

STATE MISSIONS. We, your committee on State Missions, beg to report as follows: We feel that there is no work more important than this. Both the country and the city churches are greatly benefited by the financial assistance of the State Board. The cit-

ies, owing to their recent rapid growth, are especially unable to meet the religious needs of the community, and without the help of the Board could not maintain the weak Churches which are just being born. We are glad to know that there has been a decided increase in contributions to this cause, but there is need for much larger contributions to do the work that is imperatively demanded by the spiritual destitution in many parts of our state.

RICHARD HALL,
L. D. RUTLEDGE.

Adjournment.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION.

The Association met at 10:30 a. m.

Devotional exercises conducted by Rev. F. G. Posey.

FOREIGN MISSIONS. This report was read by J. R. Austin. We, your committeee on Foreign Missions wish to make the following report: Christ was a Foreign Missionary, and to be what Christ intended us to be, we must believe in Foreign Missions. Christ was sent from Heaven by His Father on a special mission. That mission was to save the lost. He has finished the work which was given him, but left a command to us: "Go ye therefore into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

These facts should be presented to every lover of the cause of our blessed Saviour. The raising of about $140,000 for the Foreign Mission work is a matter of deep thankfulness to every true Baptist. This amount was raised during the last Conventional year. God is graciously blessing our missionaries in Foreign lands. There were 1341 baptisms on the Foreign field last year. God is giving us the victory in a way that should cheer and strengthen every heart. However, we should not be contented with what has been done, but press on for greater achievements. The Southern Baptist Convention, at its last meeting, decided to raise this year $200,000 for Foreign Missions. The question has been asked, "Can it be done?" Certainly it can, if we but go to work. Brethren, work and pray for the heathen who are perishing for the want of the bread of life on which we feast.

For information, address R. J. Willingham, Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va. Respectfully.

F. G. Posey.
J. R. Austin.

HOME MISSIONS. Report read by Dr. W. B. Crumpton.

The Home Mission Board, located at Atlanta, Rev. A. N. Kerfoot, Secretary, has for its field of labor the States of the South and the island of Cuba. In the large cities of the South, among the negroes of the South, the Indians of the West, and in the destitution in some of the states, the Home Board finds ample field for the expenditure of all its energies and all the funds it can command. Besides this the Board, by instruction of the Southern Baptist Convention, is doing some work along educational lines in connection with the district associations and the state organizations, in the mountain regions of the South. The Home Mission Board assists our Alabama work by contributing $1000. The Home Field is a little paper published by the month and scattered by thousands among the Churches at the small cost of TEN CENTS a year to the subscriber. By reading this paper our people can keep informed about the great work of the Board. Here are some of the figures about the Board which ought to interest the members of the Association: The receipts of the Board were $79,366.68. All the states in the South except one show an increase in cash contributions:

Missionaries employed,	671
Weeks of labor,	16919
Churches and stations,	2160
Sermons and addresses,	64462
Prayer meetings,	9130
Religious visits,	88200
Baptisms,	5696
Received by letter,	6255
Churches constituted,	195
Houses of worship built,	71
Amounted expended on Houses of Worship,	$68223
Sunday-schools organized,	639
Teachers and pupils,	24675
Bibles and Testaments distributed	18412
Pages Tracts distributed,	1534740

Respectfully submitted,

W. B. Crumpton.

Adjournment.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Prayer by Rev. W. B. Crumpton.

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS Bro. C. S. W. Paulk made the report on Associational Missions. (There was no written report.)

The reports on Associational, State, Home, and Foreign Missions, were discussed together by W. B. Crumpton, J. R. Austin, T. F. Hendon, R. Hall, G. M. Savage, C. S. W. Paulk, B M. Jackson. F. G. Posey, A. J. Ivie, and others; and adopted.

TEMPERANCE. Report was read by Bro. John T. Ashcraft.

We your committee on Temperance, beg leave to submit the following report: The temperance sentiment in Lauderdale county we believe is steadily strengthening. During the last four years public sentiment throughout the county, as well as throughout the state, has been undergoing marked changes on this great question. Christian hope has for many years clung to the idea of absolute prohibition. It seems that prohibition is either not the best remedy, or is too advanced an idea for the present age. So that earnest-minded men everywhere have been scanning the field for some present help, if not complete deliverance from the terrible saloon curse.

The dispensary system is now attracting favorable attention, and is being tried in many towns and counties in the state.

In Dothan, Troy, Athens, Ozark, and many other places, many Christian men and women believe this system has done great good—perhaps it has only prevented much wrong.

We recommend that our brethren and sisters in Florence Association lend their most prayerful and energetic efforts to secure the dispensary system for Lauderdale county; and not only to secure the system, but to secure it to be controlled by the best men of the county.

JOHN T. ASHCRAFT,

B. G. GRAY.

Discussed by John T. Ashcraft, B. G. Gray, A. J. Ashcraft, R. Hall, and T. F. Hendon and adopted.

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE AND EDUCATION The following report was read by Rev. R. Hall: The times in which we live demand the better education of our people. Our denomination has invested more money in education than any other. We need to put forth greater efforts to get our young people to use the advantages offered them. But where one can avil himself of a collegiate education, hundreds can get the benefit of the religious papers. Every Baptist family should take a Baptist paper. We recommend our state paper, the Alabama Baptist; the Foreign Mission Journal; the Home Field; and the literature gotten out by our Sunday-school Board at Nashville, Tenn.

L. D. Rutledge.
Richard Hall.

Discussed by Dr. G. M. Savage and adopted.

SUNDAY-SCHOOLS. We, your committee on Sunday-schools, beg leave to submit the following report: Some one has said that the Sunday-school is the nursery of the Church. If this be so, which we believe it is, should we not use every means possible to advance the cause? We note with pleasure the great interest which is being taken among the people of our denomination along this line of work. This being the case, should we not take courage in the Florence Association, and have a Sunday-school in every Church in the Association. The principles of the Baptist denomination should be taught in every community, and we believe the Sunday-school is the place to teach the children these principles. While the child is young is the time to teach it the blessed truths of God's Word. "As the twig is inclined, so the tree will grow." This is no less true of the rising generation. About the only hope we have of bringing the world to Christ is through the young people. It becomes us as parents and teachers to prepare them, so far as human instrumentality is capable, for the duties and responsibilities which shall soon rest upon them. Resting with the sweet assurance that God will be with us, we find no better place for training than the Sunday-school.

We recommend the literature of the Southern Baptist Convention, published by the Sunday-school Board at Nashville, Tennessee.

Respectfully,

O. F. Huckaba,
D. L. Garrett.

Report was adopted.

WOMAN'S WORK. We believe that no live Church is without an organization of its women, and no church is so well equipped for its battles as when her women are organized for work.

Woman's Work in the Church has grown considerably in the past year. More women are being interested and a greater variety of work is being done through this agency than ever before.

This is woman's opportunity for doing great good in the Church, and her work is limitless, and she has her field of labor and man cannot take her place. If she neglects her part. it is left undone.

It is earnestly urged that every Church should have a woman's society.

Mrs. L. F. Duckett,
Mrs. C. S. Hallman.

Discussed by Dr. W. B. Crumpton, and adopted.

The moderator appointed R. Hall, C. P. Austin, W. H. Bowen, F. G. Posey, and John English as a committe to decide where the Association would meet next year.

Adjourned.

SUNDAY MORNING SESSION.

Bro. J. T. Ashcraft was elected moderator pro tem, Brother H. C. Gilbert being absent on account of sickness.

The Association met at 9 a. m Devotional service conducted by Bro. W. H. Bowen.

B. Y. P. U. This report was made by Bro. R. E. Paulk.

Your committe on B. Y. P. U. beg leave to submit the following report: We feel a great need of more unions organized in our churches. We find there were only two reported in the Association.

We know of no better means of getting our young people engaged in the work than to organize them into Unions.

Be it resolved, That we do all we can to have a Union in each of our Churches before the meeting of the Association in August, 1901.

Respectfully,
R E. Paulk, chairman.

Discussed by R. E. Paulk. J. B. Lay, Fletcher Ashcraft and W. B. Crumpton, and adopted.

FINANCE. The report on Finance was made by R. E. Paulk and adopted. There was no written report on Finance.

On motion the fourth Article of the Constitution was changed so as to allow each Church five messengers for the first fifty members and one for every twenty-five, or fraction of twenty-five, above that number in each Church.

The committee on Time and Place of meeting reported that the Association meet with the East Florence Church on Friday, before the second Sunday in August 1901. Introductory sermon by O. F. Huckaba; F. G. Posey, alternate.

By a rising vote the Association tendered its thanks to the Church and community for their hospitality.

Dr. G. M. Savage preached at 11 a. m. to a large congregation. Also Dr. W. B. Crumpton in the afternoon at 2 p. m. Both sermons were enjoyed by all present.

Adjourned to meet with East Florence Church on Friday before the second Sunday in August, 1901.

O. F. HUCKABA, CLERK.

The following pledges for missions were made by the Churches:

Florence,	$200 00
Liberty,	50 00
East Florence,	25 00
Union Grove,	10 00
Mt. Pleasant,	10 00
New Hope,	10 00
Second Creek,	5 00
Bro. Joe Wesson of Brush Church, gave	2 00
Total,	$312 00

Standing Committees For 1901.

Executive—R. Hall, J. T. Ashcraft, B. G. Gray, Joe Wesson, C. S. W. Paulk, H. C. Gilbert, O. F. Huckaba.

Temperance—J. L. Austin, C. S. W. Paulk.

Obituaries—F. G. Posey and J. W. Austin.

Associational Missions—H. C. Gilbert and B. G. Gray.

State Missions—C. C. Winters and John T. Ashcraft.

Foreign Missions—R. Hall and C. P. Austin.

Sunday-schools—J. R. Austin, Guy Paulk.

Woman's Work—Mrs. L. F. Ducket, Mrs. C. S. Hallman.

B. Y. P. U.—Erister Ashcraft, J. P. Paulk.

Religious Literature and Education—R. E. Paulk, R. Hall.

CONSTITUTION.

Preamble.—We, the representatives of Baptist churches in Lauderdale and adjoining counties in Alabama, having been regularly baptised upon profession of our faith in Christ, and being convinced of the necessity of co-operation among churches in order to advance the cause of Christ, perpetuate union and maintain correspondence with each other, agree to keep the order and rules of an Association as follows:

Article 1. The Association shall be composed of delegates chosen by the churches to which they belong, who, on presenting certificates of appointment, shall be entitled to seats.

Art 2. Delegates thus chosen and convened shall be known as the Florence Baptist Association, which shall have no coercive power over the churches, nor infringe their internal rights. Nevertheless, the Association reserves the right to withdraw fellowship from any church proven to be heretical in doctrine or immoral in practice.

Art. 3. Letters from churches shall give the names of ordained ministers, the increase by baptism, letter, experience and restoration; the decrease by letter. exclusion, erasure, and death; also the total membership and the number in the Sunday-school, including officers and teachers.

Art. 4. Every church shall be entitled to five delegates for the first fifty members or less, and one delegate for every twenty-five members or fraction of twenty-five beyond that number.

ART. 5. Orthodox and orderly* churches, petitioning by letter and delegates, may be received by the Association, and such reception shall be manifested by the giving of the right hand of fellowship by the Moderator.

ART. 6. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by the rules of order as given in Mell's Parliamentary Practice, but the Bible shall be the standard of appeal on question of doctrine.

ART. 7. The Association shall elect by ballot at each annual meeting a Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer, who shall hold their respective offices until the next annual meeting of the body is organized.

ART. 8. The Association shall supply the churches with minutes of its proceedings, provided there are sufficient funds on hand for said purpose.

ART. 9. The body may appoint as many boards or committees as may be necessary to carry on the business and to accomplish the objects of the Association, and the executive committee shall consist of five members, including the officers of the Association.

ART. 10. The Association shall not adjourn until the work is finished, except in extraordinary cases.

ART. 11. The minutes of the Association shall be read by the Clerk, corrected if necessary, and attested by the Moderator and Clerk, before the Association adjourns.

ART. 12. The Association shall, at all times, be governed by a majority of the delegates present, which majority shall constitute a quorum, (except in alterations or amendments to this constitution.)

ART. 13. This constitution may be altered, if found necessary, only by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present.

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*To be orderly the representatives of the church must pledge themselves to require "Gospel steps" in matters of discipline.—Matthew xviii, 15-18.

STATISTICAL TABLE, 1899-00.

Churches	County	Pastor	Clerk	Clerk's Post Office	Membership last Reported	Increase				Decrease			Present Membership	Officers and Teachers	Pupils	Superintendent's Name and Post Office	Preaching Sabbaths		Prayer Meetings and Revivals
						Baptism	Letter	Restoration	Voucher	Letter	Exclusion	Erasure	Death						
Florence	Lauderdale	Richard Hall	A. B. Mason	Florence	203	6	16	1		72	46		2	108	11	107	John T. Ashcraft, Florence	E	S	Yes
East Florence	"	C. C. Winters	W. H. Bowen	East Florence	51	11	14	1						77	10	108	W H Bowen, East Florence	E	S	Yes
Liberty	"	C. C. Winters	J. L. Austin	Threet	103	2	1			1				105	4	25	J. R. Austin, Threet	4	S	No
Union Grove	"	F. G. Posey	Cassandar Urban	Stutts	61	7					3		1	64				2	S	No
Brush Creek	"		P. W. Wright	Wright	12															No
New Hope	"	F. G. Posey	R. E. Jackson	Center Star	39	7	1							47						No
Second Creek	"	O F Huckaba	T. S. Ponders	Waterloo	10	5								15				1	S	No
Mt. Pleasant	"	F. G. Posey	J. J. McGee	Lexington	50	6								56				2	S	No
Martindale	"																			

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Churches.	MISSIONS. State	Home	Foreign	Benevolence (Poor, etc)	B. Y. P. U.	W A & M S	Howard College	Church and Current Expenses	Minutes	Pastor's Salary	Church Building and Repairs	Sunday-school Contributions	Total Contribution	Value Church Property
Florence	$33 61	33 08	34 38	13 00	24 39	181 34	120 00	109 81	6 00	764 00	715 08	55 28	1870 22	5000 00
East Florence	7 18	.....	.....	11 00	50	13 18	.....	11 25	3 00	56 00	20 00	68 22	187 33	1000 00
Liberty	24 00	4 00	4 00	.....	.....	5 00	.....	.....	1 75	100 00	8 00	2 00	148 75	500 00
Union Grove	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	75	15 00	.....	.....	15 75	100 00
Brush Creek	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	65	.....	.....	.....	65	36 00
Mt. Pleasant	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00	10 00	.....	.....	11 00	250 00
New Hope	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	73	12 00	.....	.....	12 73	200 00
Second Creek	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	80	.....	.....	.....	80	.....
Martindale	.....	.....	... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50 00
Total	64 79	37 08	38 38	24 00	24 89	199 52	120 00	121 06	14 68	957 00	743 08	125 50	2247 23	7136 00

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order.
2. Devotional Exercises.
3. Reading of Church Letters.
4. Election of Officers.
5. Admission of New Churches.
6. Receiving Visitors and Correspondents.
7. Annual Sermon.
8. Appointment of the Following Committees, (others if necessary):—(a) Devotional; (b) Finance.
9. Reading the Constitution.
10. Reports of Standing and Other Committees:—(a) Obituaries (b) Temperance; (c) Missions—Associational, State, Home, Foreign: (d) Sunday-school; (e) Young People's Work; (f) Woman's Work: (g) Executive; (h) Finance.
11. Treasurer's Report.
12. Selecting Time and Place of Next Meeting.
13. Election of Delegates to State and Southern Baptist Conventions.
14. Appointment of Corresponding Delegates.
15. Election of Preacher to Deliver Next Annual Sermon.
16. Resolutions of Courtesy and Miscellaneous Business.
17. Adjournment.

REAPER PRINT, SHEFFIELD.